

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 L-03 DLOS-04 COME-00 EB-07 CG-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:FEW

APPROVED BY EUR/EE - MR. BROWN

EUR/EE - MR. MILLER

OES/OFA - MR. NAKATSU

----- 092035

R 182219Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, BU

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF BULGARIAN FISHING VESSEL ARGONAVT

REF.: STATE 137765

1. ARGONAVT, MASTER, AND CREW REMAIN IN CUSTODY AT COAST GUARD BASE IN BOSTON. EXAMINATION OF SHIP'S LOG CONFIRMS ARGONAVT OPERATED IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEASTERN AREA GEORGE'S BANK, PART OF US CONTINENTAL SHELF, FOR ENTIRE PERIOD SPENT OFF US COAST (16 FEB - 12 JUNE, 75) SAVE ONE MONTH IN NEW YORK HARBOR (12 APR - 12 MAY, 75). LOBSTER SEIZED FROM ARGONAVT WEIGHED 497.5 LBS, OF WHICH 68 LBS HAD BEEN COOKED ON BOARD PRIOR TO FREEZING. LOBSTERS IDENTIFIED AS HOMARUS AMERICANUS-AMERICAN LOBSTER, SPECIES THAT HEAVILY INHABITS AREA OF GEORGES BANK. FISHERIES SERVICE REPORTS THAT SHIPS MASTER ACKNOWLEDGED AWARENESS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF FISH RESOURCES LAW AND HAD COPY OF STATE DEPT NOTICE TO FOREIGN NATIONS REGARDING CSFR LAW.

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2. US ATTY FOR DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS ENGAGED IN SETTLE-

MENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ATTORNEYS FOR ARGONAVT AND MASTER  
THROUGHOUT JUNE 17 AND CONTINUED JUNE 18. US ATTY ADVISES  
FILING OF CRIMINAL INFO AGAINST MASTER AND SUBSEQUENT  
ARRAIGNMENT BEING HELD UP PENDING PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT

NEGOTIATIONS. DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND FISHERIES SERVICE  
HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO ASK FOR SEVERE FINE AGAINST  
ARGONAVT OF UP TO HALF MILLION DOLLARS, SEVERAL TIMES  
AMOUNT OF ANY PREVIOUS FINE LEVIED FOR SAME VIOLATION.  
OTHER AGENCIES JUSTIFY FINE ON BASIS CLAIMED FLAGRANCY  
OF BULGARIAN VIOLATION, SIZE OF CATCH AND VALUE OF VESSEL.

3. BULGARIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF SIZE OF PROPOSED  
FINE BY DISTRICT ATTY. IN TELCON WITH DEPT OFFICER JUNE  
18 KONSTANTINOV INDICATED THAT THEY FEEL FINE MUCH TOO  
HIGH AND OBJECT TO IT ON BASIS OF BULGARIAN INABILITY TO  
PAY. ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY HAD INFORMED FOREIGN  
MINISTRY OF PROPOSED FINE. WE WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO  
PROMOTE SETTLEMENT ON REASONABLE TERMS.

INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, ARGONAUT, FISHING BOATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUN 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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